

Biweekly Audit Summary
Region 6
December 1, 2017

Office of Inspector General (OIG) - Region 6 as the Action Official

OIG Abandoned Uranium Mines in the Navajo Nation-Kickoff Meeting: The Office of Inspector General will hold their entrance meeting with Regions 6 and 9 on December 6th at 2 p.m. CST; OLEM, OECA, and OITA has been invited. The focus of the kickoff meeting will be to discuss the audit's two objectives and to get an understanding of the two programs:

- (1) Does EPA have a method for prioritizing cleanup of the 50 abandoned uranium mine sites in the Navajo Nation covered under a \$990 million special account from 2015?
- (2) Does EPA have a resource allocation methodology for the special account funds that accounts for estimated cleanup costs, timeframe for cleanup, and scope of cleanup for the 50 sites?

Region 6 is coordinating with Region 9 on the internal EPA policies, procedures or guidance for management of uranium mine sites in the Navajo Nation to be provided to the OIG at or before the meeting. Chris Villarreal, Risk & Site Assessment Section, Superfund Division, is the point of contact.

Office of Inspector General Agencywide

No OIG agencywide audit activities for Region 6 for the past two weeks.

Government Accountability Office (GAO) Agencywide

Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) Actions On or Near Tribal Lands: On November 15, 2017, the GAO has decided to proceed with a case study of the Jackpile-Paguate Uranium Mine site. The GAO is interested in the tribal consultation and cleanup planning that occurs early in the Superfund process. The GAO will schedule a 90-minute meeting with Region 6 to learn more about the site and its impact on the Laguna Pueblo, as well as the Region's general Superfund-related work with tribes. Specifically, the GAO plans to discuss Region 6's consultation with Laguna Pueblo regarding the Jackpile-Paguate Uranium Mine, our Region's general process for Superfund-related tribal consultation, how tribal consultation differs based on a Superfund site's proximity to tribal land, and how Region 6 tracks and oversees Superfund sites known to impact tribes. Questions for Jackpile case study will be forthcoming. The GAO is considering visiting the site in early to mid-January 2018 and is asking us to provide a point of contact for Laguna Pueblo. As a separate focus, the GAO has sent questions on identification and tracking of sites on or impact tribal land, which are due December 5th (Ben Banipal, John Meyer POCs). Pam Phillips, Superfund Division, and Randy Gee, Tribal, are the points of contact.